

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A wheel guide assembly for a sliding door, comprising:  
a mounting structure with a body portion and a top portion, wherein one end of the top portion is disposed at one end of the body portion;  
at least one axle with a longitudinal axis disposed on the top portion of the mounting structure; and  
at least one wheel with an axis of rotation,  
wherein the wheel is rotatably mounted to the axle such that the axis of rotation is not always the same as the longitudinal axis, and  
wherein a central portion of the wheel includes a plurality of flexible fingers that engage a [[the]] central portion of the axle.

10. (Original) A wheel assembly for a sliding door comprising:  
a wheel with a central portion that includes a plurality of flexible fingers; and  
an axle with a non-cylindrical central portion,  
wherein the plurality of flexible fingers engage the axle such that the wheel is rotatably mounted on the axle and can pivot on the axle.

11. (Original) A wheel assembly for a sliding door according to claim 10, wherein the central portion of the axle is an enlarged portion of the axle.

12. (Original) A wheel assembly for a sliding door according to claim 11, wherein the central portion of the axle is substantially spherical in shape.

13. (Original) A wheel assembly for a sliding door according to claim 11, wherein the central portion of the axle is substantially ellipsoidal in shape.

14.-20 (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A wheel assembly according to claim 10, wherein each of the flexible fingers are contoured to the shape of the outer surface of the axle to surround the axle.

22. (Currently Amended) A wheel guide assembly according to claim 10, wherein the wheel includes a hub portion and a tire portion, and the plurality of flexible fingers are integrally formed with and form a one-piece, unitary structure with the hub portion.

23. (Currently Amended) A wheel guide assembly according to claim 10, wherein each of the flexible fingers has a concave surface, which is substantially similar to the shape of the exterior surface of the non-cylindrical central portion of the axle, and each flexible finger is constructed and arranged to flex outwardly from an axis of the axle when the non-cylindrical central portion of the axle is captured by the flexible fingers and positioned adjacent the concave surfaces of the flexible fingers.

24. (New) A wheel guide assembly according to claim 9, wherein the central portion of the axle is positioned within the wheel and the axle has a mounting end and a free end, the mounting end extending out from the central portion of the axle and coupled to the mounting structure and the free end extending out from an opposite side of the central portion of the axle and being opposite to the mounting end such that the central portion of the axle is positioned between the mounting end and the free end, and the free end being structured and arranged to contact the wheel in order to restrict the central portion of the axle from rotating beyond a predetermined extent relative to the wheel.

25. (New) A wheel guide assembly according to claim 24, wherein the free end of the axle has a collar that extends radially outwardly from the axle.

26. (New) A wheel guide assembly according to claim 24, wherein the central portion of the axle is an enlarged, non-cylindrical portion with a convex exterior surface.

27. (New) A wheel guide assembly according to claim 26, wherein each of the flexible fingers has a concave surface, which is substantially similar to the shape of the exterior surface of the non-cylindrical central portion of the axle, and each flexible finger is constructed and arranged to flex outwardly away from an axis of the axle when the non-cylindrical central portion of the axle is captured by the flexible fingers and positioned adjacent the concave surfaces of the flexible fingers.

28. (New) A wheel assembly according to claim 10, wherein the central portion of the axle is positioned within the wheel and the axle has a mounting end and a free end, the mounting end extending out from the central portion of the axle and coupled to the mounting structure and the free end extending out from an opposite side of the central portion of the axle and being opposite to the mounting end such that the central portion of the axle is positioned between the mounting end and the free end, and the free end being structured and arranged to contact the wheel in order to restrict the central portion of the axle from rotating beyond a predetermined extent relative to the wheel.

29. (New) A wheel assembly according to claim 28, wherein the free end of the axle has a collar that extends radially outwardly from the axle.

30. (New) A wheel assembly according to claim 28, wherein the central portion of the axle is an enlarged, non-cylindrical portion with a convex exterior surface.

31. (New) A wheel assembly according to claim 30, wherein each of the flexible fingers has a concave surface, which is substantially similar to the shape of the exterior surface of the non-cylindrical central portion of the axle, and each flexible finger is constructed and arranged to flex outwardly away from an axis of the axle when the non-cylindrical central portion of the axle is captured by the flexible fingers and positioned adjacent the concave surfaces of the flexible fingers.